

## NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN



From a Drawing by Dean Sobott

Published by THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

1512 H STREET N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN DEFENSE OF the Conservation of the National Parks System  
IN PROMOTION OF the fullest Recreational use of All Federal  
Lands, and the Conservation of Nature therein, and  
IN THE INTEREST OF Thousands of Organizations and Millions  
of Americans working together for these ends

ROBERT STERLING YARD, Editor

NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM TO  
ASSUME ITS HIGHER STATUS

*Secretary Work Plans to Perfect It  
as a National Educational Institution*

THE following letters, which we publish at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, mark an epoch in National Park history. They convey the news that the Government of the United States recognizes education as a principal function of the National Parks System. To refit the System for its higher purpose, it will be purged of parks which are inconsistent with its fundamental status, which is, in effect, that of National Outdoor Museum of the original American wilderness and National Gallery of the masterpieces of American scenery. Recreation in National Parks will continue to function healthily, but will no longer control development and administration. The letters follow:

## NEW ERA FOR NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM

*Letter from Secretary Work which makes History*

WASHINGTON, October 16, 1925.

MR. ROBERT STERLING YARD,  
*Secretary, National Parks Association.*

My dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of the 13th. It clearly sets up and supports conclusions I had reached through administering our Parks Bureau. Municipal and State Parks and National Forests together offer outdoor opportunities in countless numbers, and easily accessible.

The Government finds itself duplicating these areas down to the smallest picnic park. We have gotten away from the fundamental principle that the Government should do nothing an individual municipality or state can do for itself, and we are competing in little things, benumbing public spirit and thwarting local pride of possession and development.

The rapidly growing popularity of our National Parks System marks a time when these "first temples" may safely take their proper place in the higher education of our people in the "finer things," with which both physical and mental recreation will necessarily be associated.

I wish that the text of your letter might, through some medium, have wide circulation, as it suggests a vision for our National Parks that will be new to many people who now regard them only as recreational areas.

I remain, sincerely,

HUBERT WORK.

## MUSEUMS OF THE ORIGINAL WILDERNESS

*Letter to Secretary Work for which he asks "Wide Circulation"*

WASHINGTON, October 13, 1925.

HONORABLE HUBERT WORK,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

Dear Dr. Work:

Your idea of squeezing out of the National Parks System the parks which do not measure to standard has met with the hearty approbation of several of our Board whom I have consulted, and I predict that you will have a support all over the country that will surprise you, especially by its quality.

Personally, I am more than happy. I did not realize the full import of your questions till after I left you. That a Secretary of the Interior has the purpose and courage to perfect the System instead of using it to help political relationships is fine news. It recalls what Dr. Walcott said of you a few days before you took office: "He stands for the fine things." Also what you once said to me about some other matter: "It is the thing to do because it is right."

While we're doing it, let us make a thorough job of it. The National Parks System has the stuff already in it for a unique and wonderful national institution, but it is so loaded up with indifferent exhibits, and its shining purpose is so hidden behind its official recreational promotion that its great fundamental purpose doesn't get over. It reminds me of the picture collection of a man I once knew who had many great paintings mixed up with daubs and got credit from no one. Also he used his gallery wholly for receptions and dances, which of course were excellent things

in their way. It wasn't till he died and his pictures came to the hammer that the world discovered that he was a very great collector. While he lived he was known only as a great entertainer.

Uncle Sam is in the same position. He needs to have his museum collection cleaned up so that the world will know how great it is and the country will use it for its highest purpose.

You have discovered the daubs now in Uncle Sam's collection and purpose to tear them out. That will be a grand start. There will remain to keep the new parks up to standard and to emphasize officially the System's highest purpose, so that the people will know the wonderful thing they've got. They'll not realize this till Uncle Sam himself announces it. Then they'll go crazy with pride. The System's recreational function is mighty useful; but so long as Uncle Sam plays it up as the principal use, subordinating thereto its higher functions, he will, like the collector, lose out on the really big thing.

Secretary Lane played up national parks recreation in eloquent word pictures which carried big-type heads in the newspapers. "Our National playgrounds" had no rivals then. They blazed alone in the recreational sky. But the automobile has changed all that, and "outdoor recreation" is the commonest term in the language. There's a popular craze to recreationize all the federal lands, which amount to nearly a fifth of the country. Among all these, the recrea-

tional service rendered by the National Parks System, as measured in numbers of people served, has already dropped to one in hundreds. Also the State Park movement has taken wings. It is the fast rising new comet in the recreational sky.

Why not, then, let national park recreation work out its own natural course (a noble contribution in any event) without further special emphasis, and announce and concentrate upon the National Park System's greatest function and destiny?

Our National Museums of the original American wilderness, which our forefathers conquered—and which now is so swiftly passing! And our gallery of the sublime in American scenery!

A national institution, this, unique in the world, and forever without rivals!

This institution has always existed, but has been hidden behind a resounding promotion of recreation, like the collector's treasure behind his social functions. Many have perceived it and treasured it for years. Then a few of us began its promotion. Now it is the earnest desire of increasing thousands. It is time that Uncle Sam should take hold of the situation. We shall so gladly exchange the job of promoting it for that of heartily helping you accomplish it.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT STERLING YARD.

## FIVE MINUTES WITH THE NEWS

*With Comments by the Editor*

WITH Secretary Work's advancement of the educational function of the National Parks System to a position of prime importance, our extraordinary collection of exhibits of the original American wilderness assumes a unique place among the public institutions of the world.

There is no other national outdoor museum system elsewhere, nor is it possible elsewhere to assemble another which will compare with it in the comprehensiveness of its geologic exhibits and of its botanical exhibits growing in original environment untouched by any but nature's hand. It is a national possession precious beyond estimation, to the world as well as to America, the more so because its scenic splendor brings millions annually within its educative influence.

The educational usefulness of national parks was first recognized by the government in 1920 when Director Stephen T. Mather inaugurated a nature guide system in Yosemite, which he has since extended to several other national parks; and last winter an excellent museum was built in Yosemite to help visitors comprehend the vastly greater museum in which it is located.

Secretary's Work's recognition of the entire system as primarily educational is in logical sequence with this successful experiment, and his proposed elimination from the System of various small parks of an earlier period which detract from its perfection is the beginning to be expected from so practical and courageous a public official.

Recreation in our national parks will not be discouraged under the new governmental view of them. As Dr. Work puts it, "Both mental and physical recreation will necessarily be associated." The larger the number of persons who visit our national parks in the desire for comprehension, the greater will be their public usefulness.

The fact is that the country has outgrown its once great need of national parks as resorts. The speed with which the new outdoor recreational movement is laying possessive hands upon all outdoor America releases them from responsibility.

### The Outdoor Recreational Movement

When the season's computable returns are complete, the great pace of the general recreational movement will be found unabated. This year more motor touring cars have been sold, more licenses issued, more new resorts established, more new roads built and more old roads re-surfaced, than in any year of our history. Visitors to National Parks have increased four hundred thousand, making a tenth annual new record. And informal estimates of the pleasure patronage of the National Forests show an increase from eleven to more than twelve millions.

To meet the immense rising tide of popular demand indicated by these facts, Congress lags far behind all other agencies in equipping facilities. Not including the special road appropriations, there is appropriated annually for recreational purposes: for national parks, more than one dollar per person who uses the parks; for national forests, about a sixth of one cent per person who uses the forests; and for equipment in all other federal lands combined, nothing. Yet federal areas certainly two-thirds recreational will more than equal the combined areas of all states from Maine inclusive westward to the Mississippi and southward to Georgia, of which huge total the National Parks together only equal Rhode Island in area.

One inference is that Congress owes a good deal to recreation in federal lands other than national parks. Another is that, before even considering buying new na-

tional parks or private holdings within old ones, it would be simple sanity to equip for use the enormous recreational domain which we already possess.

Buying national parks with federal money, by the way, fortunately has no precedent in Congress. It would be an exceedingly dangerous precedent to establish, because, once started, the flood cannot be controlled. Hundreds of lesser and local national parks would immediately be demanded by persistent constituents in many states, and Congress cannot favor some and refuse others.

We want no National Park Pork Barrel.

### Proposed Appalachian National Parks

Secretary Work realized this great danger in the promotion of the proposed Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. He early dashed the hopes of those who imagined Congress would buy these areas by informing the people of the three states in which they lie that they must purchase the lands themselves and present them to the Government, just as the people of Maine contributed and continue to contribute the lands for Lafayette National Park. Otherwise, he would not recommend their creation. In Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina, therefore, promotion associations are busily raising money.

### Proposed Roosevelt Sequoia National Park

Together with many thousands, we hope the Sixty-ninth Congress will promptly create the proposed Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park. The bill will call for the addition to Sequoia National Park in California of a gorgeous high-mountain area including Mount Whitney, much high-altitude forest of grandeur and two mighty granite canyons which are peers of Yosemite—the Tehipite Valley and the King's River Canyon.

This proposal has been ten years before Congress. Two years ago, with the water power oppositions apparently composed, the bill was vehemently opposed by California irrigationists, who argued that they might need some day to develop their own water power in these great valleys to help them pump their irrigation waters around the lower levels. So the bill slept.

Recently Representative Barbour, in whose district these irrigationists live, stated that the irrigationists now see that a national park will profit them more than problematic power in some indefinite future. But meantime the western woolgrowers and live stock associations have passed resolutions against any new extensions to National Parks, and attacked the Roosevelt-Sequoia project at Senate Committee hearings in Salt Lake City and San Francisco.

On such issues hang the up-building of our national gallery of scenic masterpieces, in which Roosevelt-Sequoia will be one of the noblest pictures.

### Grazing Interests After Forest and Park Control

Whether Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana will resume in the new Congress his historic role of Enemy-in-Chief of National Parks Conservation, we shall not know until Congress convenes.

Meantime another anti-national park champion has arisen in the person of Senator Ralph Cameron of New Mexico, who held up the Grand Canyon appropriations for several months in 1922, declaring that none were needed there, and denounced the National Parks Service for spending money for "isms, fads and chasing rainbows." He now makes a new and less unheroic gesture.

At the last session a resolution was put through the Senate directing a sub-committee of the Public Lands Committee "to investigate all matters relating to national forests and the public domain and their administration." Senator Robert N. Stanfield of Oregon was named Chairman. Other Republican members are Senators Cameron of Arizona, Oddie of Nevada and Dale of Vermont. Democratic members are Senators Ashurst of Arizona, Jones of New Mexico, Kendrick of Wyoming and Dill of Washington. All except Senator Dale represent states in which sheep and cattle interests seek controlling rights in the National Forests.

Twelve hearings were held in Arizona, and two or three in each of other western grazing states. Senator Cameron will come up for re-election in Arizona next year and Senator Ashurst two years later.

Although National Parks are parts neither of the national forest nor the public domain, Senator Cameron used the opportunity to fish for useful scandals in these clear pools, and caught nothing—which is not strictly an accurate statement because at least he hooked a whale in the person of Superintendent Horace M. Albright of Yellowstone, who promptly demolished his entire stock of bait and tackle. Cameron's hearing at the Grand Canyon had also been fruitless.

The effect of the investigation to date appears to be a wholesome public reaction against grazing interests obtaining any degree of control whatever within our national forests or parks. The continued sound and able administration of both these great public trusts are dear to the people, who will be ready next winter for their defense.

### For New Lands to Farm Trees

The only possible solution of our lumber emergency concurrent with cutting fire losses is forest farming. Chief Forester Greeley must forthwith become Chief Farmer Greeley. Every timber-cutting company must become also a timber-growing company. Every town must have its extensive wood-lot. Every farmer must grow crops of trees as assiduously as crops of wheat and potatoes.

The American Forestry Association introduced at the last session a bill for a larger program of National Forest land purchases in the east, which will be pushed in the coming session. It is known as the McNary-Woodruff bill. It calls for appropriations of three million dollars a year for five years and five million dollars a year for the next following five years to buy cut-over and waste lands for the Forest Service to farm trees.

This will make a fine beginning. It meets emergency gallantly. It shows business foresight. Let us set Chief Farmer Greeley a task to tax even his energy to its limit.

### Wild Life Conservation

With the Alaska Game Commission reorganized, and the Biological Survey camped on the upper Mississippi getting options on lands for the fish and bird refuge which the Sixty-eighth Congress authorized, the desire of conservation America is now centered upon the Migratory Bird Refuge Bill.

This is now in the hands of a committee of five, representing the east, middle and west of the United States, of which John B. Burnham, President of the American Game Protective Association, is chairman. Its purpose is the purchase of swamp lands and waters, breeding and resting places of migratory water fowl, which are disappearing under the enterprise of drainage companies extending business. We must pass this bill.



# THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

TO MOBILIZE ALL OUR FEDERAL LANDS FOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION  
1512 H STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

## OBJECTS

- To conserve nature and to win all America to its study.
- To promote a system of National Recreation Reservations in the federal lands which shall not be subject to the standards and restrictions of the National Parks System.
- To protect our National Parks System from all industrial uses, to uphold its standards, and encourage its educational uses. It is the country's one museum system of undisturbed nature and our national gallery of scenic masterpieces.
- To promote the development of our system of National Military Parks into a system of National Historical Parks which shall commemorate other and often greater events in our national history than only battles.
- To promote the adoption of standards and scientific selection for our National Monuments System. Its educational value must be preserved and developed.
- To aid specialist organizations, by popular promotion, in their work for forest rehabilitation, and wild bird and wild animal protection.
- To interest popular organizations of all kinds everywhere, scientific, educational, patriotic and civic societies, motoring, mountaineer, travel and sportsmen's clubs, wild life and conservation organizations and the people generally in cooperative work for these beneficent objectives.

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